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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/495,597	02/01/2000	Thumpudi Naveen		5071
7590	08/10/2004		EXAMINER	
Joseph S. Tripoli PATENT OPERATIONS THOMSON MULTIMEDIA LICENSING INC. PO BOX 5312 PRINCETON, NJ 08543-5312			CARTER, AARON W	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2625	
			DATE MAILED: 08/10/2004	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

12

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/495,597	NAVEEN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Aaron W Carter	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 May 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,2,4-6 and 9-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-6 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 9-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 01 February 2000 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to papers filed on May 27, 2004.

Response to Amendment

2. In response to applicant's amendment received on May 27, 2004, all requested changes to the claims have been entered. Claims 9-14 have been added. Claims 3, 7 and 8 have been cancelled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by USPN 6,292,575 to Bortolussi et al. ("Bortolussi").

As to claim 9, Bortolussi discloses a method of generating a normalized bitmap of the shape of a visual object in an image comprising the steps of:

segmenting the image to generate a segmentation map of visual objects (Fig. 3, element 56);

identifying samples from the segmentation map belonging to a visual object of interest (Fig. 3, element 52);

identifying the largest connected blob to form an un-normalized bitmap (column 23-38, wherein the largest connected blob is identified and determined to be a rough estimate of a Head ROI, rough corresponds to un-normalized bitmap); and

normalizing the un-normalized bitmap to form the normalized bitmap representation, wherein said normalizing step comprises a normalization operation that is at least one of: adjusting a translational parameter corresponding to the un-normalized bitmap and adjusting a rotational parameter corresponding to the un-normalized bitmap, where the result of said normalization operations enables the normalized image to be compared to other normalized images (column 19, lines 13-17 and 31-34).

As to claim 11, Bortolussi discloses the method as recited in claim 9 further comprising the step of searching a database of images, each image having associated visual objects with normalized bitmap representations, in response to a query specifying a desired normalized bitmap representation to identify a plurality of visual objects having normalized bitmap representations that closely match the desired normalized bitmap representation (column 19, lines 31-47).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bortolussi as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,002,794 to Bonneau et al. (“Bonneau”).

As to claim 12, Bortolussi discloses the method as recited in claim 9 wherein the searching step comprises the steps of: providing a query bitmap seeking similarly shaped visual objects from the database; normalizing the query bitmap; for each normalized bitmap representation in the database compute a mismatch value with the normalized query bitmap; and identifying the visual objects having normalized bitmap representations with low mismatch values (column 42-63). Bortolussi does not explicitly disclose the step of obtaining various mirror versions of the normalized query bitmap. However, Bonneau teaches us that obtaining various mirrored versions of an image are beneficial in that it creates more images for comparing another image with (column 3, lines 10-13). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the invention of Bortolussi with the teachings of Bonneau. This gives the invention the advantage of providing more images for

Art Unit: 2625

comparison, which will increase the chances of finding the correct image during a query (column 3, lines 10-13).

7. Claims 10 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bortolussi as applied to claim 9 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,415,282 to Mukherjea et al. (“Mukherjea”).

As to claims 10 and 13, Bortolussi discloses the method as recited in claim 9 wherein the searching step comprises the steps of: providing a query bitmap to find visual objects in the database that are similar; normalizing the query bitmap; obtaining an absolute difference between the normalized bitmap representation and the query; and identifying the visual objects where the absolute difference has low values (column 3, lines 10-13). Bortolussi does not explicitly disclose that the difference between the normalized bitmap representation and the query bitmap is based on their aspect ratios. However, Mukherjea teaches us that comparing the aspect ratio of a query image with the aspect ratio of a template image are a good way of identifying a query image (column 8, lines 14-29). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the inventions of Bortolussi and Mukherjea. This would give the invention the advantage of comparing aspect ratio of images for use in image identification.

8. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bortolussi as applied to claim 9 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,181,817 to Zabith et al. (“Zabith”).

Art Unit: 2625

As to claim 14, Bortolussi discloses the method as recited in claim 9 wherein the searching step comprises the steps of: providing a query bitmap to find visual objects in the database that are similar; obtaining an absolute difference between the normalized bitmap representation and the query; and identifying the visual objects where the absolute difference has low values (column 3, lines 10-13). Bortolussi does not explicitly disclose that the difference between the normalized bitmap representation and the query bitmap is based on their densities. However, Zabith teaches a method of comparing data objects based on their densities (column 3, lines 40-42 and column 4, lines 2-4). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the inventions of Bortolussi and Zabith. This gives the searching step of Bortolussi the advantage of comparing image densities, which will increase the probability of correctly matching image segments (column 3, lines 45-47).

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 1, 2 and 4-6 are allowed.

Conclusion

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

Art Unit: 2625

the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron W Carter whose telephone number is (703) 306-4060. The examiner can normally be reached on 7am - 3:30 am (Mon. - Fri.).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bhavesh Mehta can be reached on (703) 308-5246. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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